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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. If the Soviets consider East Germany as West Germany's equal, Karl Schirdewan declared in mid-September, East Germany must be allowed to set up its own armed forces, in order not to be militarily dependent upon the Soviets.
2. A conference on the subject of a national army had been held in the Politburo some time earlier. Especially stressed was the huge financial burden necessitated by the maintenance of the current "volunteer" KVP formations.¹
1. Comment: While the GDR tries to squeeze every pfennig out of its economic installations; it spends millions for the KVP which is the most expensive army in the world. This would change with the proclamation of a national army, when soldiers would be drafted and would receive draftees' pay.

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